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KELLY ALEXANDER, JR.

NAACP Points To New Civil Rights Era

Emancipation And Political Power

From CAROLINIAN Staff reports
The North Carolina State Conference of Branches of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People held its 46th annual state program here last week and said North Carolina will enter a new era of civil rights in the 1990s.
The three-day extravaganza was held Thursday through Saturday at the Raleigh Marriott

NAACP says blacks should move into mainstream politics and into economic development in the 1990s.

at Crabtree Valley with approximately 600 delegates representing churches and NAACP organizations across the state.

Kelly Alexander, Jr., NAACP state president said the major focus as African-Americans move into the 1990s is political and economic empowerment and urged African-Americans to work within the system. "We're calling it a new era of civil rights," he said, "an era with more participation in mainstream politics."

During the convention leaders attended workshops and lectures on topics from education to health to political action. "It's legitimate for us to be involved in" (See NAACP POINTS, P. 2)

Educators Aim At New School Bill Senate Bill 2 Offers Avenues For Change, Improvement

Wake superintendent Bob Wentz has announced the establishment of a special steering committee to develop a comprehensive plan of direction for the school system. This school improvement plan will serve as the system's response to Senate Bill 2, the N. C. School Improvement Accountability Act.

"This landmark legislation gives public school systems the opportunity to be really creative in responding to local students' needs," Wentz said. "We will be participating in this golden opportunity and will be involving all facets of our community and our school system in the development

of our plan."

Saturday, Oct. 21, approximately 250 teachers were in Raleigh to "dissect" the N. C. School Improvement and Accountability Act. Members of the North Carolina Association of Educators are giving intense scrutiny to this legislation and began by sponsoring a one-day training session at Peace College on how educators can gear up to implement this bill on the local level.

Viewing teachers as vital, key players in the implementation of the Bill, NCAE president Julia Kron has appointed a 45-member task force to help NCAE members around the

state understand the provisions of the bill. "We are going to provide the necessary information and training to maximize full participation of our members," Kron said.

The 40-member steering committee established by Wentz consists of community and parent representatives, county government and school board representatives, teachers, principals, administrators, and noncertified staff.

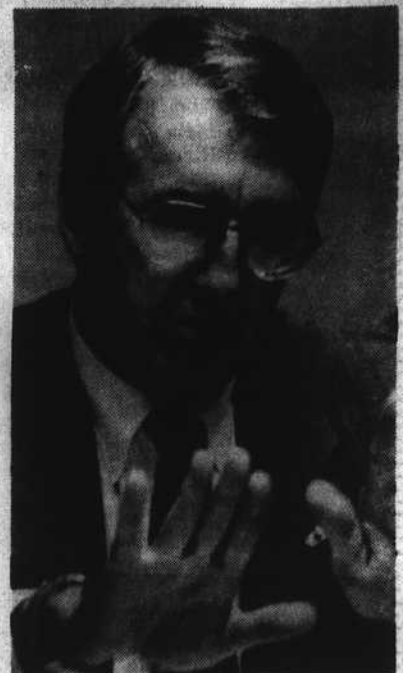
"This committee will work together to ensure the development of the best possible plan to direction for our school system," Wentz said. "The group will not, however, be making

decisions for the entire community concerning our schools. Rather, it will decide what needs to be done to develop our school improvement plan and then will involve others in the process."

The first meeting of the steering committee was held Monday, Oct. 23 with other meetings on Nov. 6-7. The deadline for completion of the comprehensive plan is March 1.

"Enacted in the final days of the 1989 General Assembly session, Senate Bill 2 can prove to be the most significant step taken in North Carolina for true educational

(See EDUCATORS, P. 2)



BOB WENTZ

Overtake At-Large Method

ACLU Charges Election Bias

Voting Act Violation Questioned

A lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union is claiming that Martin County and several surrounding towns discriminate against blacks in local elections.

Filed last week in U.S. District Court in Raleigh, the suit asks for at-large elections to be terminated since so few African-Americans have been elected to those seats.

According to Kathleen Wilde, staff lawyer with the ACLU's Southern Regional Office in Atlanta, Martin County's history of failing to elect African-Americans is a definite violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. "There has been campaign after campaign after campaign [by blacks] and they have just been pretty much uniformly unsuccessful," said Wilde.

Apparently, African-Americans have been elected to the council, but not in proportion to their population in Martin County.

Other counties that the suit named as discriminating against African-Americans in local elections were Williamston, Jamesville and Robersonville.

However, Jamesville Mayor Timon Coltrain said he saw no reason to change the way town officials are elected. "I thought it was fair," he said. "All you've got to do is run."

Attempts were made to resolve at-large election problems out of court, but ended unsuccessfully.

Forty-five percent of Martin County consists of African-Americans, (See ELECTION BIAS, P. 2)



DRUG DEMONSTRATION—A group of demonstrators led by Rev. Frank Summerfield, pastor of World of God (Photo by Talib Sabir-Calloway) marched around the capitol building to protest drug and alcohol abuse, while offering their solution to the problem.

Ministers Issue "Call To Battle" For Marchers To Fight Drug War

From CAROLINIAN Staff Reports
Religious crusaders in their robes and packing Bibles marched through downtown Raleigh last week, labeling themselves soldiers in the war on drugs. During the same time, Lt. Gov. Jim Gardner continued his antidrug campaign with a roundtable discussion with educators at Shaw University.

Rev. Allen, a crusader around the country against drugs, headed the lunchtime march that drew attention and participation from approximate-

ly 200 supporters.
However, as they paused around Martin Street and Fayetteville Street Mall, their shouts grew louder in an attempt to gain even more attention and be heard over the roaring noise of the lunchtime crowd and buses in downtown Raleigh.

Allen, a syndicated columnist in 50 states, is gaining support and conducting training seminars in conjunction with Rev. Summerfield and other local area ministers to bring attention and education to the problem of

drugs in the black community and how they are impacting and destroying our future, our youth.

Rev. Summerfield anticipates a great deal of support and concern from city officials to recognize the need to deal with the problems of drugs and stop discussing them.

Allen and Summerfield both feel that too much time has passed without anything of consequence be-

(See DRUG CRUSADE, P. 2)

Brutal, Inhuman War

Protests Follow Rebel Jonas Savimbi

BY JUDY F. RICHARDSON
Special Correspondent
An Analysis

NEW YORK, N.Y.—Scores of protesters led by the newly formed National Coalition for Peace in Angola staged a protest in New York against UNITA rebel leader Jonas Savimbi,

who is waging a brutal and inhuman war against the people of Angola. Savimbi, on a two-week visit to the United States to request increased military and diplomatic support from the Bush administration, was the featured afternoon speaker at the

Council on Foreign Relations headquarters located at the corner of Park Avenue and 68th streets in Manhattan.

The protesters, organized by the New York affiliate of the National Coalition for Peace in Angola, loudly

chanted slogans such as "Savimbi, murderer" and "Bush, Savimbi you can't hide/ we charge you with genocide," while carrying hundreds of signs with the same message. Some attempted to walk toward Savimbi as he arrived to personally bring their message to him, making it difficult for Savimbi and the large U.S. State Department security entourage to enter and exit the building. At one point the Rev. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., one of the protest leaders, was thrown against the limousine carrying Savimbi by a policeman.

The government of the People's Republic of Angola is seeking peace and presented a peace plan which was accepted by Savimbi and UNITA on June 22 in Gbadolite, Zaire. A ceasefire had been declared. However, since that time Savimbi has used the recent increase in U.S. military support to UNITA to renew the fighting in Angola. Today, Angola has the highest amputee rate per capita of any nation in the world, and this is directly attributed to the human rights atrocities committed by UNITA in their futile attempts to overthrow the government of Angola. The demonstration in New York was part of a series of national demonstrations in many cities that call for President Bush to immediately stop all aid to the terrorist group.

Police attempts to cordon off the demonstrators with metal and

(See PROTESTS, P. 2)



ON LINE—Members of Shaw University's branch of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity stand at attention outside the Shaw U. student union. (Photo by Talib Sabir-Calloway)



CONFRONTING SAVIMBI—The Rev. Benjamin F. Chavis (right), founder and president of The Angola Foundation and executive director of the United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice and Damu Smith (left), coordinator of anti-Savimbi protests confront Savimbi in New York.